

Amendments to the Claims

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 12 further including:~~ A method for a first device in a first subnetwork to request a process from a second device in a second subnetwork different from the first subnetwork, comprising:

a first broadcast relay in the first subnetwork detecting a first subnetwork network wide broadcast packet in the first subnetwork;

in response to the packet having a first subnetwork network-wide destination address, a broadcast host address and a destination port number, the first broadcast relay generating a unicast address changed packet from the detected packet by changing the network wide destination address to a unicast address of a second broadcast relay in the second subnetwork;

the first broadcast relay outputting said unicast address changed packet through a router to the second broadcast relay, the router configured to prevent the first subnetwork network wide broadcast packet from reaching the second subnetwork;

the second broadcast relay receiving in said second subnetwork a the unicast address changed packet addressed to said second receiving broadcast relay;

the second broadcast relay generating a first second subnetwork-type broadcast packet in which a by changing the destination unicast address of the packet received by said second receiving broadcast relay is changed to the one an address related to a first second subnetwork-type broadcast; and

the second broadcast relay outputting said first generated second subnetwork-type broadcast packet generated by said second receiving broadcast relay inside said second subnetwork;

the second device on the second subnetwork receiving the second subnetwork-type broadcast packet and checking a port number of a protocol segment of the second subnetwork-type broadcast packet; and

the second device performing a predetermined process if the port number corresponds to a process of the second device or taking no action if the port number does not correspond to a process of the second device.

14. (Currently amended) The broadcast processing method according to Claim ~~42~~13, wherein said ~~first~~ second subnetwork-type broadcast is a broadcast dedicated to the subnetwork in which it is outputted.

15. (Currently amended) The broadcast processing method according to Claim ~~42~~14, wherein the first and second subnetworks are interconnected via a subnetwork other than said first and second subnetworks, or the Internet.

16-19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) The method according to Claim 15, wherein the second device performs the predetermined process, further comprising:

the second device outputting a process result second subnetwork network wide broadcast packet from the processing operation related to the first subnetwork network wide broadcast packet;

the second broadcast relay detecting the result packet, generating a unicast address changed packet from the result packet by changing a network wide destination address to a unicast address of the first broadcast relay and outputting the unicast address changed result packet through the router to the first broadcast relay;

the first broadcast relay receiving in said first subnetwork the unicast address changed result packet, changing the destination unicast address of the result packet and outputting said changed result packet to a predetermined client on the first subnetwork; and

the predetermined client receiving the changed result packet, checking a port number of a protocol segment of the changed result packet; and

the predetermined client performing a predetermined client process if the port number corresponds to a process of the predetermined client or taking no action if the port number does not correspond to a process of the predetermined client.

21. (New) The method according to Claim 20, further comprising a first subnetwork broadcast client broadcasting the first subnetwork network wide broadcast packet, wherein the first subnetwork predetermined client is different from the first subnetwork broadcasting client.

22. (New) A method for enabling a first device in a first subnetwork to request a process from a second device in a second subnetwork different from the first subnetwork, comprising:

producing computer executable program code;

storing the code on a computer readable medium;

providing the program code to be deployed and executed on a computer system, the program code causing the computer system to:

in response to detecting a first subnetwork network wide broadcast packet in the first subnetwork, the packet having a first subnetwork network-wide destination address, a broadcast host address and a destination port number, generate a unicast address changed packet from the detected packet by changing the network wide destination address to a unicast address of a second broadcast relay in the second subnetwork;

output said unicast address changed packet through a router to the second broadcast relay, the router configured to prevent the first subnetwork network wide broadcast packet from reaching the second subnetwork;

cause the second broadcast relay to generate a second subnetwork-type broadcast packet by changing the destination unicast address of the unicast address changed packet to an address related to a second subnetwork-type broadcast in said second subnetwork;

cause the second broadcast relay to output said generated second subnetwork-type broadcast packet inside said second subnetwork; and

cause the second device on the second subnetwork to receive the second subnetwork-type broadcast packet, check a port number of a protocol segment of the second subnetwork-type broadcast packet; and perform a predetermined process if the port number corresponds to a process of the second device or take no action if the port number does not correspond to a process of the second device.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, the program code comprising instructions which, when executed on the computer system, causes the computer system to:

cause the second device to output a process result second subnetwork network wide broadcast packet from the processing operation related to the first subnetwork network wide broadcast packet;

cause the second broadcast relay to detect the result packet, generate a unicast address changed packet from the result packet by changing a network wide destination address to a unicast address of the first broadcast relay and output the unicast address changed result packet through the router to the first broadcast relay;

cause the first broadcast relay to receive in said first subnetwork the unicast address changed result packet, change the destination unicast address of the result packet and output said changed result packet to a predetermined client on the first subnetwork; and

cause the predetermined client to receive the changed result packet, check a port number of a protocol segment of the changed result packet and perform a predetermined client process if the port number corresponds to a process of the predetermined client or take no action if the port number does not correspond to a process of the predetermined client.